

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00
ICAE-00 INRE-00 SY-05 /055 W
-----095476 121001Z /20

O R 120922Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 421
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO
CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, PEPR, KS, US
SUBJ: ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS ROKG ABOUT BLUE HOUSE BUGGING, ETC.

1. FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE OF KOREAN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
APRIL 12 BEGAN QUESTIONING ROKG ABOUT CURRENT TOPICS:
BUGGING OF BLUE HOUSE BY US INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES,
DEMANDS FROM US CONGRESS FOR TESTIMONY OF FORMER
AMBASSADOR KIM TONG-CHO, TRILATERAL MEETING ON KOREA, AND
COMPENSATION FOR US TROOP WITHDRAWAL. FOREIGN MINISTER
PARK TONG-CHIN AND UNIFICATION BOARD MINISTER YI SONG-HUI
FIELDED QUESTIONS FROM AT LEAST SIX ASSEMBLYMEN ON FIRST
DAY OF QUESTIONING.

2. IN AN UNUSUAL STEP, OPPOSITION NDP LEADER YI CH'OL-
SUNG LED OFF THE QUESTIONING, ASSERTING THAT US RESPONSE
TO BUGGING, A "GRAVE VIOLATION OF SOVEREIGNTY", WAS UNCLEAR,
AND SUGGESTING THAT KOREA SUMMON FORMER AMBASSADOR PORTER
AND OTHER RELATED OFFICIALS TO TESTIFY. DRP ASSEMBLYMAN
KIM CHONG-CH'OL ADDED SUGGESTION THAT US HAD
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INTENTIONALLY RAISED REQUEST FOR AMBASSADOR KIM'S
TESTIMONY AS A DESIGN TO AVOID COMPENSATION FOR WITHDRAWAL
OF US TROOPS. QUESTIONS OF ALL ASSEMBLYMEN ASSUMED
THAT BUGGING WAS FACT, DESPITE US DENIALS.

3. IN REPLY, FOREIGN MINISTER PARK TONG-CHIN EMPHASIZED
THAT ROKG MUST RESPOND DELIBERATELY, AND THAT GOVERNMENT

WANTS TO MAINTAIN GOOD TIES WITH USG. PAK POINTED OUT THAT ROKG HAD, ON TWO OCCASIONS PRIOR TO PORTER'S REMARKS, DEMANDED EXPLANATION OF USG, WHEN THERE WERE NEWSPAPER REPORTS OF BUGGING OF BLUE HOUSE. FOREIGN MINISTER NOTED AMBASSADOR SNEIDER HAD TRANSMITTED OFFICIAL USG DENIAL OF BUGGING THIS TIME ALSO, ALONG WITH A STATEMENT OF REGRET OVER PORTER'S REMARKS. FOREIGN MINISTER ADDED ROKG HAD STRONGLY PROTESTED PORTER'S STATEMENTS AND HAD DEMANDED OF USG A SATISFACTORY EXPLANATION. FOREIGN MINISTER SAID ROKG WAS EXPECTING SUCH A RESPONSE FROM US "SOON". FOREIGN MINISTER ALSO DENIED THAT ROKG WAS TAKING A "LOW POSTURE" TOWARD US ON THIS MATTER.

4. ON US DEMANDS FOR TESTIMONY BY KIM TONG-CHO, FOREIGN MINISTER NOTED THAT JAWORSKI HAD BLAMED ROKG, WHICH WAS "REGRETTABLE", AS HE HAD CERTAINLY DAMAGED FRIENDLY RELATIONS BETWEEN KOREA AND THE US. QUOTING VIENNA CONVENTION, FOREIGN MINISTER STATED ROKG CANNOT ACCEPT US DEMANDS FOR KIM'S TESTIMONY.

5. QUESTIONING OF GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE, AND PROBABLY BE CONCLUDED, ON THURSDAY.
SNEIDER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SURVEILLANCE, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT, CENTRAL LEGISLATURE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978SEOUL02995
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780157-0170
Format: TEL
From: SEOUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780463/aaaacbgr.tel
Line Count: 85
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: d1033ab1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2987215
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS ROKG ABOUT BLUE HOUSE BUGGING, ETC.
TAGS: PINT, PEPR, KS, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/d1033ab1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014